

Moran Asks Incoming House Leadership to Make Disaster Assistance the First Priority in 2007

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Jerry Moran today asked for the support of incoming Democratic House leadership in immediately addressing disaster assistance for Kansas farmers and ranchers. Current Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi has announced a list of initiatives the House will consider during the first 100 hours of the next Congress. In a letter to Pelosi, Moran requested that agriculture disaster assistance be addressed in these first 100 hours.

"This issue demands immediate attention when the House reconvenes in January," Moran said. "I have seen firsthand the effects of severe weather conditions in Kansas and this disaster assistance must be provided. If it is not, many farmers and ranchers will be forced out of business."

Farmers and ranchers in Kansas and across the country suffered billions of dollars in losses in the 2005 and 2006 crop years as a result of adverse growing conditions. These losses were attributable to a variety of natural disasters, including drought in Kansas. Although a majority of farmers in Kansas hold insurance policies, the effectiveness of those policies have decreased because of multiple year droughts. In addition, severe crop losses when coupled with record-high levels of energy and input costs have made it difficult for Kansans to remain in the business of production agriculture.

Moran is a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee.

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